



- As municipalities play a key role in community health and safety, the legalization of marijuana raises many questions for us about its production, distribution and consumption.
- We thought it would be beneficial to have a session at this Mayors' Caucus so we could bring you up to date on the most recent developments and respond to your questions and concerns.

## Some early work

### Marijuana Production and Regulation - Municipal Resources

Alberta's municipalities are concerned about health and safety issues relating to medical marijuana production facilities.

In order to develop recommendations on this important topic, AUMA created a working group that included first responders such as fire and police) as well as municipal administrators. These recommendations were submitted for the provincial and federal governments' consideration.

Member Resource	Full Report
Municipal Regulation of Federally Licensed Medical Marijuana Production Facilities	Solutions to address health and safety issues relating to marijuana production

AUMA learned that there are a number of things that municipalities can do such as passing bylaws to regulate the siting and operation of medical marijuana production facilities. A number of municipalities have already taken the initiative in passing bylaws that them to control the siting of medical marijuana production facilities through zoning.

<https://www.auma.ca/advocacy-services/programs-initiatives/marijuana-production-and-regulation-municipal-resources>



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- AUMA began working on this topic several years ago when we struck a working group to develop recommendations relating to medical marijuana production facilities and actions to address illegal grow ops.
- We realized through this work that municipalities may be unaware of the actions that they can take to proactively address health and safety concerns – things like passing bylaws on the siting and operation of production facilities.
- So we posted some resources on our website which you will want to review if you weren't aware of them.

## Federal Objectives for Legalization and Regulation

- Help keep it out of the hands of children, prevent drug-impaired driving, and stop criminals from profiting from it.
- Design a system of strict marijuana production, distribution, and regulated sales

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- The federal government's 2015 announcement of its intention to legalize marijuana caught many by surprise, including municipalities and law enforcement officials.
- However, the government says this shouldn't be a surprise since most Canadians support this direction as they no longer believe that simple marijuana possession should be subject to harsh criminal sanctions.
- AUMA was the first municipal association to take action following this announcement.
- We immediately met with Health Canada and Public Safety Canada and brought the Federation of Canadian Municipalities into our discussions.
- The government told us that their goal is to better control access to marijuana and put in place appropriate safeguards for its production and sale.
- They stated that they do not intend to normalize marijuana.
- They want to keep it out of the hands of Canadian children and youth who are currently one of the highest users in this category in the world.
- They also want to cut down on illegal trafficking which generates \$7 billion annually and costs governments about \$2.3 billion to enforce.

**Task Force Report on Legalization and Regulation**

**A FRAMEWORK FOR THE LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION OF CANNABIS IN CANADA**

**THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION**

February 27, 2017

The Honourable Ralph Goodale  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
200 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

The Honourable Judy Wilson-Raybould  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Room 6125, Centre Block  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Jane Philpott  
Minister of Health  
20 Columbia Gateway, Tunney's Pasture  
Postal Location: 050C  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K3

Dear Ministers Goodale, Wilson-Raybould, and Philpott:

On behalf of Alberta's over 270 urban municipalities, we are pleased to respond to *A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada*, the final report of the Task Force on Cannabis Legislation and Regulation.

AUMA is generally supportive of the Task Force recommendations contained in the report. We appreciate that some municipal implications have been acknowledged, but there are others that need to be considered:

- Municipalities need to be engaged in determining tax, price and use of the resulting revenue.
- Tax revenues should be available for municipal education, enforcement, and action to address any social issues that arise as a result of legalization.
- Labelling requirements should include a statement that it is illegal to have cannabis consumed by individuals who are minors.
- Clarification is required on the provincial regulation of distribution and retail sales:
  - Minimum standards should be set in federal legislation so there are consistent and sufficient controls nationally upon which provinces can incorporate their additional provisions.

Link to [letter on auma.ca](#)

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- The federal government appointed a task force to develop a regulatory system.
- AUMA provided input that spanned the protection of youth, the need for public awareness and education, controls around the production, sale and consumption of marijuana and the model for distributing tax revenue.
- We were pleased that the task force incorporated many of our suggestions in their final recommendations which were released late last year.
- We expressed our support for these recommendations to the federal Ministers of Health, Public Safety and Justice and drew attention to some outstanding concerns relating to tax revenue and the need to ensure that municipalities can establish bylaws pertaining to the sale and consumption of marijuana and the protection of property associated with home grow.
- If you haven't had the opportunity to read our response, it's available on our website.

## Timeframe for Implementation

- Winter 2017 consideration of Task Force recommendations
- Spring 2017 federal legislation followed by public consultation
- Regulations to follow in 2018 (federal and provincial)
- 2019 Implementation

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- AUMA recently met with federal and provincial officials to learn about the next steps.
- We were advised that the federal government is currently considering the task force recommendations and will determine which ones they wish to accept.
- The federal government will then develop legislation this spring to outline general provisions.
- Public consultation on this draft legislation will occur over the summer so the legislation can be finalized and passed in the fall.
- The specific requirements will then be set out in regulations in 2018.
- Note that the provincial governments will also need to develop regulations since some matters will be left up to them.
- This means that the earliest the changes will be in effect is 2019.
- This will be a complex undertaking as it needs to take into account social norms and law enforcement practices that vary significantly from province to province.

## Understanding the Impacts

### Honourable Anne McLellan

- Chair of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation

### Bill Sweeney

- Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

### Corporal Richard Nowak

- Traffic Services, RCMP "K" Division

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- It's important that municipalities start to prepare for the changes.
- We are privileged to have three guest speakers with us today who will help us understand the impacts of these changes.
- Our first speaker is the Honourable Anne McLellan, who chaired the federal government's task force and will summarize their recommendations. Many of you will recall that Anne served as a Cabinet Minister and as Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.
- Our second speaker is Assistant Deputy Minister Bill Sweeney who will speak about the provincial role in setting out regulations for Alberta.
- Our third speaker, Corporal Richard Nowak, from RCMP K Division Traffic Services, will talk about the RCMP's approach to impaired driving.
- Each speaker will present, then we will take some time at the end for questions.